

MEMORIES OF BOB HANRAHAN

JIM MILLER • jim_miller@mindspring.com

Bob Hanrahan was a man with limitless generosity and boundless energy. He could never be accused of doing anything less than on a grand scale. When he decided to start up a company that would market carnivorous plants, he created WIP (World Insectivorous Plants), the first retailer to offer CP from around the world. When he decided to grow native *Sarracenia*, *Drosera*, *Dionaea*, and *Pinguicula*, he didn't plant a backyard bog; he created a 20-acre preserve that today is one of the last places where you can actually see native CP growing together in optimum conditions – it's like stepping out of a time machine set to the 1960s, when fields of *Sarracenia* and other native CP were a common sight in and around the Gulf Coast. And if you could propagate a hundred flytraps a day, Bob wanted to figure out how to propagate a thousand in the same time frame.

I first met Bob in the mid-1970s, when WIP was located in Arroyo Grande. I started sending him seed from Gulf Coast native CPs and that earned me an invitation to visit the WIP facilities, as well as taking a drive up the California coast to Gasquet to observe *Darlingtonia* in the field. In the late 1970s, Bob's "day job" took him to Melbourne, Florida and we began making regular trips together to all the great CP sites: The Green Swamp, the Yellow River, the Mobile Bay area, the Okefenokee Swamp, and other historical "hot spots." Though Bob and I came from radically different backgrounds and had few things in common, the one thing that we never tired of was CP. I am certain we spent hundreds of days together in hot, humid bogs and cheap motels from the Carolinas through the Florida Panhandle and into Alabama and Mississippi, and we never seemed to run out of things to talk about.

I was often a guest in the Hanrahan household and got to know his wife, Cathy, and his three children. For a while, wherever Bob moved, from Sacramento to Atlanta, I was not far behind him. In some ways, for a while at least, I was closer to Bob's family than my own. For a time, I even worked for WIP, packaging orders and shipping them to many of the very people who are reading these words. I have wonderful memories of those times when Bob and I were both in our 30s and we traveled everywhere with my faithful border collie, Woofie. And though Bob was a few years older than me, I always had to struggle to keep up (and rarely could); it's as if he had some secret energy source that he could tap into.

But by the mid-1980s, it became apparent to both of us that many of the prime habitats were disappearing, which made the sites that remained even more precious, and led Bob to purchase acreage in what he liked to call L.A. – "Lower Alabama." I think that other than his family, that property, which ultimately became known as the Carnivorous Plantation, was Bob's pride and joy.

We began to lose touch with each other in the late 1980s and early '90s, when I got married and moved back to California, but when my wife and I moved back to Florida in the late 1990s, Bob and I started to reconnect. Eventually, I'd make at least one or two trips a year from Tallahassee to L.A. to marvel at the plants there. I'd recognize *flavas* from DeFuniak Springs, *alatas* from what used to be huge fields near Pascagoula, Mississippi and *rubras* from the Yellow River. They were like old friends, and I was so happy to know that while the plants had long ago been extirpated from a certain location, Bob made it his business (and passion) to keep representative plants alive on his property.

When I learned that Bob had become ill, I believed with all my heart that if anyone could beat this thing, it would be Bob. Even after chemotherapy treatments that would have left the average person bed-ridden, Bob was out rescuing plants or making improvements to the property. And somehow he still had more energy, more get-up-and-go than me. In fact, Bob and I had planned to get together just a few weeks before I got "the call" and learned that he had passed away.

Bob had some degree of impact on almost every person with a passion for carnivorous plants. His love of CP and the Carnivorous Plantation he so carefully cultivated are his legacy, and I am sure there will be plants growing 50 or even 100 years from now that would never exist were it not for Bob Hanrahan. I surely do hope that the “better place” we are all supposed to go to one day will be hot and humid with towering afternoon thunderstorms and *Sarracenia* stretching out as far as the eye can see.

ERRATUM

THE CORRECT NAME FOR THE HYBRID BUTTERWORT *PINGUICULA GRANDIFLORA* SUBSP. *ROSEA* × *P. VULGARIS*

JAN SCHLAUER • jan@carnivorousplants.org

Aymeric Roccia (2013) described a new hybrid butterwort from the Alps of Isère, SE France. Unfortunately, the present author did not have a chance to review the manuscript before the article went to print, so a nomenclatural problem was overlooked. The new hybrid involves a subspecies different from the type subspecies of *Pinguicula grandiflora* (viz., *P. grandiflora* subsp. *rosea*) as a parent, while the analogous hybrid of the type subspecies of *P. grandiflora* was already described earlier under the legitimate name *P. × scullyi* (Druce 1922). The new hybrid can thus not receive a name different from *P. × scullyi* at species rank as originally proposed by Roccia (cf. ICN, Art. H.5.2. “If the postulated or known parent taxa are of unequal rank the appropriate rank of the nothotaxon is the lowest of these ranks”, McNeill *et al.* 2012). Subspecies rank is appropriate in the present case, and the formally correct name is:

Pinguicula × scullyi nothosubsp. *gresivaudanica* (Roccia) J. Schlauer comb. & stat. nov.

Basionym: *Pinguicula × gresivaudanica* Roccia, Carniv. Pl. Newslett. 42(2): 37 (2013)

References:

- Druce, G.C. 1922. Secretary’s Report for 1922. The Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles 6: 159.
- McNeill, J., Barrie, F.R., Buck, W.R., Demoulin, V., Greuter, W., Hawksworth, D.L., Herendeen, P.S., Knapp, S., Marhold, K., Prado, J., Prud’homme van Reine, W.F., Smith, G.F., Wiersema, J.H., and Turland, N.J. 2012. International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants (ICN, Melbourne Code). Regnum Vegetabile 154. Koeltz Scientific Books, Koenigstein, Germany.
- Roccia, A. 2013. *Pinguicula × gresivaudanica* (Lentibulariaceae), a new butterwort hybrid from the French Alps. Carniv. Pl. Newslett. 42(2): 36-46.